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THE REPORT

Of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION, in *Ireland*, to His Excellency The LORD LIEUTENANT; of the Proceedings of their Board, from the 18th of *November* 1813, to the 25th of *March* 1814.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY CHARLES VISCOUNT WHITWORTH,
Lord Lieutenant General, and General Governor of
IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

WE the undersigned, Commissioners of Education in *Ireland*, nominated and appointed under the provisions of an Act of Parliament, passed in the fifty-third year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the appointment of Commissioners for the regulation of the several Endowed Schools of Public and Private Foundation, in *Ireland*,"—Beg leave, in pursuance of the duty imposed upon us by the said Act, to make a General Report to Your Excellency, of our Proceedings to the 25th of March 1814.

THE first Meeting of the Board was held on Thursday the 18th of November 1813, at the Council Chamber. Dublin Castle, in pursuance of a general notice for a meeting, issued by command of Your Excellency:—At this Meeting,

The Right Honourable Lord MANNERS, Lord High Chancellor of *Ireland*,
The Right Reverend The LORD BISHOP of DERRY,
The Right Reverend the LORD BISHOP of FERNS,
The Reverend THOMAS ELRINGTON, Provost of Trinity College,
The Right Honourable JOHN BARRY, and
JOHN LESLIE FOSTER, Esquire,—were present:

When the Act of Parliament aforesaid having been read, and Your Excellency's warrant, dated Dublin Castle 30th October 1813, appointing, in pursuance of the powers vested in Your Excellency by the said Act, The Right Reverend William Lord Bishop of *Derry* for the Province of *Ulster*, The Right Reverend *Thomas* Lord Bishop of *Cork* for the Province of *Munster*, The Right Reverend *Percy* Lord Bishop of *Ferns* for the Province of *Leinster*, and The Right Reverend *James* Lord *Bishop* of *Killalla* for the Province of *Connaught*, together with *John Otway* Earl of *Desart*, The Right Honourable *John Maxwell Barry*, The Right Honourable *William Fitzgerald*, and *John Leslie Foster* Esquire, together with the persons mentioned in the Act aforesaid, to be Commissioners of Education in *Ireland*, having also been read;—the Commissioners present as aforesaid proceeded to appoint a Secretary, when *John Corneille* Esquire, Barrister at Law, was unanimously appointed to that Office:—Since which time the Commissioners have held meetings on the following days; Tuesday 30th November 1813; Thursday 2d December, Friday 17th December; Tuesday 4th January 1814; Wednesday 5th January, Friday 14th January, Monday 17th January, Monday 14th February, Mooday 21st February

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February, Thursday 24th February, Monday 28th February, Tuesday 1st March, Wednesday 2d March, Thursday 3d March, Tuesday 15th March, Wednesday 16th March, Thursday 17th March, and Thursday 24th March: And the Commissioners at their said Meetings, considering the Schools of Royal Foundation as entitled to their first attention, proceeded to order Reports to be made to them, of the Estates belonging to the Schools of *Armagh*, *Dungannon*, *Enniskillen*, *Cavan*, *Raphoe*, *Banagher*, and *Carysfort*, together with an Account of the Charges for Buildings and Improvements affecting these Endowments, and also Reports of the present system of Education carried on in each of those Schools; and they have directed accounts to be opened in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland (whom they have appointed their Bankers) for the purpose of receiving the surplus monies arising from the Estates of such of those Schools, the Masters whereof have been lately appointed upon particular conditions and with limited incomes; namely, the Masters of the Schools of *Dungannon*, *Cavan*, and *Raphoe*; which Surplus the Act aforesaid empowers the Commissioners to appropriate to the purpose of building or repairing and enlarging the School Houses of the Schools of Royal Foundation, or for the establishment of Free Schools on the foundation of those Schools respectively, or for the endowment of exhibitions to Trinity College.

We beg leave further to report to Your Excellency, that the Commissioners, having determined upon a Visitation of the School of *Carysfort*, (of which the Reverend Sir *Thomas Foster* Baronet, was the Schoolmaster, and Mr. *Andrew Cartan* the under Master, and also Tenant of the School Lands) did hold the said Visitation accordingly, on the 4th of January 1814: And it having appeared to the Board that Sir *Thomas Foster* did not, in person, perform the duties of Schoolmaster of *Carysfort* School, which by law he was required to do, the Board did recommend to Your Excellency the acceptance of his resignation; to which recommendation Your Excellency was pleased, through your Chief Secretary the Right Honourable *Robert Peel*, to signify your gracious assent.

In consequence of which Resignation, the Commissioners have ordered their Architect to inspect the Tenement (a thatched building) in which the School is at present kept, and to send in to the Commissioners an Estimate for the building of a School-room at *Carysfort*, capable of accommodating sixty scholars, with suitable accommodation for the Master; it being their opinion that a good English School should be established at *Carysfort*, for the instruction of the poor children of the vicinity.

We have further to report to Your Excellency, that finding that the Endowment of *Cavan* School of Royal Foundation, had no School House or Residence for the Master, belonging to it, and that the present Master kept the School in a House rented by him, and situated seven miles from the town of *Cavan*, in or near which town the School, according to the Charter of its foundation, ought to be kept, have resolved to build a School House suitable to this endowment; towards the erection of which they have in bank a considerable sum, the annual savings of the overplus of the School Estate, after paying the Master's salary; and for this purpose they have made various enquiries respecting the best scite near *Cavan*, for such School House, and have lately sent down their Architect to examine whether that part of the School Estate, which is nearest to *Cavan*, and not above three quarters of a mile distant from it, affords a good scite;—or if not, whether any more eligible scite nearer to *Cavan* can be obtained. The Commissioners have also taken steps to procure a temporary accommodation for the School, more contiguous to *Cavan*, than the place where the School is now kept; but hitherto without success.

The Commissioners finding also that there is not now, nor ever has been any School House belonging to *Banagher* School, also of Royal Foundation, but that the present School is now kept in the Town of *Banagher*, in two large Houses which adjoin each other, and which are rented by the present Master out of his Income, have directed their Architect to inspect and make Plans of and a Report to them of the said Houses.

The other Schools of Royal Foundation under the management and direction of the Commissioners, are already provided with suitable School Houses; viz. *Armagh*, *Enniskillen*, *Dungannon*, and *Raphoe* Schools; and a certain portion of land for the accommodation of the Master, is attached to the three first-mentioned endowments.

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We beg leave further to report to Your Excellency, that in consequence of the Report made in the year 1807, by the Commissioners of Education appointed under the Act passed in the 43d year of His Majesty, upon the Schools of *Navan* and *Ballyroan* of Private Foundation, the Commissioners determined to hold a visitation of the said Schools of *Navan* and *Ballyroan*; which visitation was accordingly held on the 14th of January, and the 24th and 28th of February 1814: And the Commissioners having examined the Reverend *Joseph Preston*, the Master of the School of *Ballyroan*; and it appearing that he was appointed Master thereof in the year 1794, and that he had not attended to the duties of the School in person; and he having declared to the Commissioners, on his examination before them, that he did not intend to reside, and do his duty in person as Schoolmaster of the School of *Ballyroan*; they, under the powers vested in them by the Act of the 53d of His present Majesty, have deprived the Reverend *Joseph Preston* of the Mastership of said School of *Ballyroan*, and have ordered due notice to be given of such their deprivation, to the patrons of said School of *Ballyroan*, and have called upon them within three months, the time limited by said Act, to appoint a proper and competent person to be Master of said School, in the room of the said Reverend *Joseph Preston*; and further, under the powers vested in them by the said Act, of regulating Schools of Private Endowment, the Commissioners have resolved that a Mercantile Academy should be established in the said town of *Ballyroan*, an Institution likely, from the information received by the Commissioners, to succeed in that Town, and to be highly advantageous to the children of the description of persons residing in *Ballyroan* and its neighbourhood; and they have directed that in the interim the present Usher of *Ballyroan* School should be continued in care of the School, and that his salary should be increased from thirty-five pounds to sixty pounds per annum; and that he should continue to teach Greek and Latin to such children as their parents might desire should receive a classical education: The Commissioners have also had an inspection made by their Architect, of two houses in *Ballyroan*, which are at present rented out of the funds of the School Estate, and which are contiguous to each other, with the intention of purchasing and enlarging them, so as to make them suitable to the purposes of the Mercantile Academy above-mentioned, and capable of accommodating Boarders, should they not determine to have a School House built elsewhere in *Ballyroan* for the endowment.

We beg leave further to report to Your Excellency, that upon the visitation held of the School of *Navan*, also upon the same foundation, the Commissioners having found, from the examination of the Reverend *Francis D. Hamilton*, the Master thereof, that he was appointed, by the Patrons of said School, Master of it in the year 1807, but that he had not attended to the duties of the School in person, but had left the management of it to the Usher; the Commissioners have, under these circumstances, also found it necessary to deprive the said Reverend *Francis D. Hamilton* of the Mastership of *Navan* School, and to order that such their deprivation should be notified to the Patrons of said School; and have also notified to them, that it is their resolution, under the powers vested in them, to establish a Mercantile Academy at *Navan*; to which Academy, an Assistant capable of instructing such children whose parents may desire it, in the Greek and Latin languages, is to be added; and they have continued in this situation the Reverend Mr. *Thomas Toomy*, the present Usher and only acting Master of said School, at his present salary of one hundred pounds per annum; that sum having been allowed him under an order of the Court of Chancery. The Commissioners have also sent their Architect to examine and report upon two Houses in *Navan*, at present rented out of the funds of the Endowment, for the residence of the Master and Usher of this School, to make a Report upon the fitness of repairing and enlarging either of them, so as to adapt them to the purpose of the Mercantile Academy proposed, and with accommodation for Boarders.

The Estate of this Private Endowment yielding above one thousand pounds per annum, applicable to the annual expenses of these two Schools, and a sum of above four thousand pounds in money, the savings on their former annual expenditure, and which may be appropriated to building or purchasing suitable School Houses for *Navan* and *Ballyroan* Schools, should, if proper persons are appointed by the Patrons to be Schoolmasters of each, afford the Public those advantages which might be expected from so ample an endowment for education.

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The Commissioners have also given directions to their Secretary, to procure a copy of the *Down* Survey of the Lands of *Cappaghloughlin* in the *Queens* County, the Estate of the Schools of *Navan* and *Ballyroan*, in order to discover whether any encroachments have been made thereon; and they have directed a similar investigation to be made respecting the Lands of *Banagher* School, which, by a late Survey in their possession, appear to have lost above seventy acres of the original Grant made by King Charles the 1st, to that Endowment.

We beg leave further to report to Your Excellency, That the Commissioners have held a visitation of the School of *Clonmel*, another Private Endowment, and that this, as also the following subjects, are under the investigation of the Board; viz. The state of the Lands and Funds of *Tubbritt* School; the application of the Rents and Funds of *Hewetson's* School; an investigation of the Estate and Management of *Middleton* School, of *Eyrecourt* School, and of an Endowment for a Grammar School at *Rathfarnham*, County *Dublin*, by a Mr. *Wetheral*; and also in what manner the Funds of the School of *Tullavin*, the *Blue Coat* School *Cork*, the *Blue Coat* School *Limerick*, the *Blue Coat* School *Waterford*, and the Charity Schools of *Finglass*, *Feathard*, *Ballintemple*, *Ballymakey*, *Toem*, *Templenciry* and *Doone*, are secured:—But we defer making any particular Report to Your Excellency, of the progress of the inquiries of the Board, until we can lay before Your Excellency the final result of their proceedings respecting the said Schools.

25th March,
1814.

(Signed)

CHARLES CASHEL.	(Seal.)
W. TUAM.	(Seal.)
W. DERRY.	(Seal.)
PERCY FERNS.	(Seal.)
JA^s KILLALLA.	(Seal.)
THO^s ELRINGTON.	(Seal.)
J. LESLIE FOSTER.	(Seal.)

A true Copy.
W. Gregory.

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(Ireland.)

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(Pursuant to Act of Parliament.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be printed,* 24 *November* 1814.

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